

THE JEWISH HERALD.

VOL. 1.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, APRIL 2, 1909

NO. 28

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ZEMAN CHERUSEINU

ISCH ODESSA

Passover, the first and oldest Jewish Festival is now here. For nearly thirty-five centuries we celebrate this day on which our ancestors were freed from the bonds of slavery from the land of Egypt—the day on which we were proclaimed a people—the day on which Israel became a self governing and independent nation.

This Festival has four names, viz: Chag. Hapesach, Feast of Passover; Chag-Hoabit, Feast of ripe ears; Chag-Hamotzas, Feast of unleavened bread and Zeman. Cheruseinu, season of our freedom. These four names are symbolical of four different periods of Jewish History; the times thru different generations since Israel became a nation, until we will again be restored unto the Fatherland as a free and independent nation.

Chag-Hapesach, feast of Passover is the name of this Festival. It symbolizes the event when the Almighty smote the first born of the Egyptians and passed over the first born of Israel. Al-schun-schepoach and guarded them and set them free.

Chag-Hoabit, feast of ripe ears is the natural name of this grand day. After the gloomy days of winter are over and the days of spring have come and revive nature anew, the fields and forests are sending unto us their perfuming odors and once more do we hear the sweet melodies of the nightingale and other song birds. This name is symbolical of the period when Israel became an independent nation in her own land, had her own kings, priests, Levites and Temple.

Chag-Hamotzas feast of unleavened cakes, or the Lechemoini bread of affliction. This name symbolizes Israel's present oppressed condition. The period of this long Goluth night for the last two thousand years. Since Israel is living as a tenant among many lands, who are mistreating him upon every turn he is making, he

is only permitted to have the bread of affliction; to live a life full of misery, to swim in his own blood, tortured in Spain, driven from Portugal, degraded in France and Germany, hated in Austria-Hungary, massacred in Prussia and Romania and disliked thruout the world. Oh, my poor people, thou art the chosen people of thy Creator, who is merely testing your patience with this long lasting afflicted period in order that thou mayest greater rejoice when the fourth period of Zeman Cheruseinu season of our freedom will come, as this is the last symbolical name of our great Festival, which we celebrate every year for fifteen days in the month of Nisan and this last period, the time of our golden future is coming nearer and nearer for we have had enough lechem oim. Nearer and nearer comes the time when Israel will really be a free people, recognized and respected by all nations. But in order to help along this golden future all Israel must unite spiritually and nationally. We have no "Moses" at the present time. We Jews are scattered thruout the world. Even Moses would not be able to free us in our present scattered condition. If we desire real freedom for our oppressed and persecuted brethren, we must unite. We Jews of all the world must form a spiritual and national bondage for only then can we expect to be freed, for only then will we be able to raise with pride the flag of freedom, for then only will we be justified to call this feast "the season of our freedom."

ZEMAN CHERUSEINU.

J. L. Levi of Victoria was in Houston last week accompanying the "Hustlers" on their return trip.

The tombstone erected to the memory of the late L. M. Rich was dedicated last Sunday at four o'clock in the Beth Israel cemetery.

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